Issue 247

Est. 2005

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plus Property View

Tuesday, December 29th 2009

🗱 WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

DOUBLE STORE CHAIN SCHEME

THE year 2010 could see Honiton become home to two more national supermarket chains.

Both Lidl and Aldi have been given permission to build in the town and Lidl says it will begin work on its new store at the site of the BP garage on the Heathpark Industrial Estate as soon as a section 106 agreement can be agreed with East Devon District Council (EDDC).

The German chain originally submitted an application in

September 2008 but that was withdrawn. Then in October this year the application was resubmitted.

The plan includes demolishing the existing garage and creating a neighbourhood food store with up to 85 parking

During a recent planning meeting town councillors in Honiton gave the Lidl application their support. However, they did voice a couple of concerns mainly regarding traffic and access issues.

A spokesman for the council said: "The town council is concerned that there appears, at this stage to be no comments from the Highways Agency.
"A crossing is required over the Heathpark Way to

facilitate residents from local estates to be able to safely access the store.

"A filter lane is required in Turks Head Lane. A crossing is required on the Exeter Road betwen Lidl and the entrance to the new Aldi store and a crossing is required over Turks Head Lane to facilitate pedestrians crossing this busy junction.

"In addition the town council believes that the resolution of air pollution problems should be prioritised.
"The town council has concerns regarding localised

flooding in Exeter Road, particularly in properties directly opposite the entrance to Heathpark Way and the town council remains concerned that the lack of retail sites in the town centre is leading to a division of shopping areas."

A spokesman for Lidl said: "Further to the town

council's positive recommendation for the application, the district council subsequently recommended the scheme for approval.

"The plans were discussed at east Devon's planning



◆ YOUNG Charlie Simic, two, of Honiton, received a visit from Santa Claus himself when Honiton Round Table organised for the sleigh to tour Woodman's Crescent among many other of the town's residential roads

committee meeting on December 8th and the application was approved subject to the signing of a section 106

"Lidl has commenced discussion of the section 106 with east Devon's legal team and hope that matters can be drawn to a swift conclusion."

Aldi is set to build its store at the current site of the Slades Countrywide Store

> ■ HAVE your say. Do you support plans for a Lidl and Aldi in Honiton? See page 11 for details

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ANGELS

The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country are captured during their nativity plays... pages 8-10

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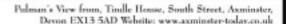
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Pulman's View

Courses for driving are up for grabs

TEN driving courses are up for grabs in a competition being run by Devon County Council to help motorists improve their driving skills in the new year.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, county council Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation, said: "These driver training courses can help drivers become more aware of how to adapt their driving safely for treacherous winter conditions and it's a great prize that could help you stay safe on the roads in the new year."

More information and entry details can be found online at www.devon.gov.uk/countrymile. Winners will be announced at the end of Innuary

Generosity gets praised

POPPY Appeal organisers for the Colyton area have praised the generosity of those who helped to take this year's total above the £5.000-mark.

A spokesperson for Colyton District of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal said: "Colyton District, which also includes Northleigh, Southleigh, Shute and Whitford, has raised £5,104 for the 2009 Poppy Appeal thanks to the efforts of our collectors and to those who gave so generously."

Metal canine cages stolen

TWO metal dog cages have been stolen from a barn near Broadcroft Cross, Chardstock.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the burglary, which occurred in the evening of Wednesday, December 2nd.

Police say a blue Subaru vehicle may have been in the area and involved

Anyone with information is asked to call 08452 777 444 and ask for Axminster Police Station, quoting crime reference number KA/09/623.

Man arrested

A-TWENTY-NINE year old man from Honiton has been charged following a burglary at a premises just off the High Street on Monday, November 2nd.

He will appear before Exeter Magistrates Court on Tuesday, January 12th.

Local representatives share new year wishes

IT'S that time of year when you start to think about new year's resolutions

With Christmas been and gone and 2010 just around the corner *Pulman's View* has asked local representatives what they would like to see in the next 12 months.

Roger Giles, town, district and county councillor for Ottery St Mary, said: "We need a fully functional Ottery Hospital to continue to provide excellent services for local people and we need a vibrant shopping community in Ottery

community in Ottery.

"Road safety has always been one of my top priorities, improvements that I hope to see in 2010 include a 20mph speed limit in Tipton and reduced speed and improved safety in the Shutes Mead part of Ottery.

"I hope that the excellent local schools will benefit from recent improved facilities and will go from strength to strength. I also hope to see substantial progress towards delivering play facilities in West Hill, a skate and bmx park in Ottery and the cycleway connection between the town and The Kings School."

Vivienne Ash, mayor of Honiton, said: "Building the community centre is the main priority in 2010. We also want to deliver allotments and improve our marketing.

"We are working with the chamber of commerce and tourist information centre to promote the town and I hope we can make good progress with this in the next year, there is a marketing strategy in place and this will be launched in early February.

"The town council will continue to work closely with young people and I have been extremely impressed with the young people we have worked with so far and we will continue to build relationships with them."

Sandra Semple, mayor of Seaton, said: "Ideally in 2010 I would like to be able to provide something for young people in the town.
"The results of a survey that we

"The results of a survey that we have conducted show that this is deeply needed and more than half of the households in the town are represed to pay a little extra for it.

prepared to pay a little extra for it.
"Nobody will do this for us and if we don't do something ourselves we won't get anything.

"In difficult times we need people to be as generous as they can.

"That is my wish and I hope we can get something for the young people completed as soon as possible." Helen Parr, district councillor for

Helen Parr, district councillor for Colyton and the Coly Valley, said: "I would like to see Colyton have a thriving economy in 2010 and the affordable homes project to be

completed, this is a superb project in Colyton and should be carried out in more rural places.

"The Reece Strawbridge Centre is going to be brilliant when it is up and running and we need more provision for youngsters in the town.

"I don't know how but we have got to make improvements in transport links from main roads. Some people in rural areas have cars and some don't and people need to get places.

"The Axe Marshes project needs to continue as well so that we have a clean and green environment"

clean and green environment."

Axminster mayor Ron Jones looked back on a very busy year and said:
"Who says nothing happens in Axminster? It has been a very special year for Axminster.

"We had The Tour of Britain and now we also have a completely refurbished and modern hospital, which is second to none.

"And, of course, we've had the redoubling of the railway line and there are many other things going on.

"Unfortunately this year, we have had to say goodbye to Michael Steer and The Alternative Theatre Company, who have given many years of fun and laughter to many.

"For next year we will have a celebration of the railway service in Axminster being 150 years old, possibly with a party in June or July.

"Webster's garage, an eyesore for many years, will have a new front with murals on it — my thanks to ACE and Andrew Moulding for their hard work.

"It would also be nice if the George Hotel is purchased and put to good use — and I understand the church will see a new vicar in place in 2010.

"Also, if the economy eases, some building sites may start building again. Axminster is a town to be proud of, with many people working hard to make it even better in 2010.

hard to make it even better in 2010. "Some things do take time, but we will get there. I would like to thank town councillors for their hard work and guidance. It may look to some that nothing happens — but I can assure you that is not the case.

"Thanks also to our town clerk, Hilary Kirkcaldie, who keeps me and the town council on the straight and narrow — and Guildhall manager Sarah Farrant who has done sterling work in promoting the Guildhall. Watch out for the next tribute band in 2010.

"Many thanks to everybody in and around Axminster. Without you there wouldn't be an Axminster to be proud of

"I do hope that you have a happy and healthy new year."

£764 worth of promises

Tuesday, December 29th 2009 3

AN auction of promises and a raffle raised £764 for The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, Tesco's charity for 2009.

The auction and raffle was staged by the company's Axminster branch and held at Cloakham Lawn Sports Centre on Thursday December 3rd.

Tesco's Axminster community champion, Kath Rabjohns, expressed gratitude to all those who helped or supported the event in various ways.

These included local companies that gave donations, members of the public who came to the event, Cloakham Lawn for providing the venue and auctioneer Charles Clark who didn't charge for his services.

Council looks for volunteers

HEMYOCK Parish Council is looking for volunteers to carry out footpath surveys around the parish.

The surveys take place on a regular basis and are designed to check for unauthorised diversions and blockages.

Anyone who like to volunteer should contact parish clerk Anne Kingston on 01823 680918.

NEWSROOM: 01297 631120



♦ PEOPLE gathered in the Axminster Inn in Silver Street, Axminster, on Tuesday night, to take part in the BBC South West interactive carol singing event. Organised by the BBC with Churches Together the programme was broadcast live throughout the south west. The group in the pub dressed as a nativity scene for their contribution to the show, and are pictured as the singing began

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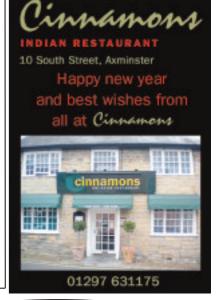


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Gorgeous Molly (and sister Milly) was left in Devon when her owners moved abroad - she's not too fussed but would really like a new home for the new year so if you can help call Honiton Cats Protection now on 01404 45241 www.honiton.cats.oru.uk

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◆ REPRESENTATIVES from Colyford receiving a runner-up certificate from Councillor Graham Liverton



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Village gets praised for good work

BY ANDERS LARSSON

COLYFORD and its residents have been praised for pulling together in tough times to make the village such a nice place.

Colyford finished runner-up in the Large Villages East Devon category of The Best Kept Village Competition 2009.

The competition is organised by The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), but the most recent accolade came from East Devon District Council (EDDC).

An EDDC spokesperson explained: 'Whilst separate arrangements are made by CPRE to present the Devon-wide winners with their trophies, each year EDDC formally recognises the efforts made by villages within the district that have been given high points in the competition but are not Devon-wide

EDDC chairman Graham Liverton presented the certificates and said: "Rural communities have recently had a tough time with the closure of post offices, schools and village shops.

"It is heartening to know that, in spite of the recent economic downturn, people are still pulling together to make this area of England not only a beautiful place to live, but one where people work for the benefit of everyone.

"I congratulate all the winners and those villages who didn't receive a prize this vear, but who worked hard to submit an entry into the competition.

The Small Villages East Devon category was won by Dalwood, with Hawkchurch in second place



♦ THREE youngsters were rewarded at Axminster Library for their efforts in various competitions. The library service's website has a section called The Zone, hosted by M@x the cyberdog, aimed at young people. Among other Things, The Zone invites users to a host of competitions. Ten-year-old Jade Smith was the winner of a joke competition whilst 16-year-old Eleanor Brake triumphed in an art competition for those aged 13-17 called Wild About Devon. In addition, 11-year-old Amy Elford finished second in the five-12 age group of Wild About Devon. All three were invited to Axminster Library on Friday, December 4th to be presented with prizes. The winners are pictured with librarian Pat Whitehead at the back

Council doing all it can to ensure safety

WITH the current cold snap expected to last for the next few weeks Devon County Council (DCC) say it is doing all it can to ensure the roads are safe for motorists across the region.

A fleet of gritters has been working non stop following the ice and frost that has gripped the county.
Stuart Hughes, Devon County Council

cabinet member for highways and transportation, said: "With a mixture of snow, rain and ice, conditions on the county's roads will be very difficult and motorists must take care, even on the roads that have been salted.

"We are doing everything we can to keep roads as passable and safe as reasonably possible but unfortunately, there is no way county because of the vast size of Devon's road network.

"Drivers need to be aware that ice could be a problem in some areas.'

Chris Cranston, DCC manager, added: "We do not have the resources to treat the whole network including footways and cycleways. Our priorities are to proactively treat the major roads which take the majority of the traffic and also reactively treat the busiest footways in city and town centres when resources become availabel.

"But with the prolonged cold spell, which is expected to last through the Christmas holiday period, anyone using the highway network must take personal responsibility and extreme care when they

CALL THE NEWSROOM ON 01297 631120

AXMINSTER police were kept busy with weather-related car accidents in the morning of December 23rd.

Police received five calls in a short period of time ranging from a threecar collisions to a single car

overturning.
Police said there were no major physical injuries but some of those involved suffered from shock.

In addition, a number of cars involved suffered varied degrees of damage.

Among incidents were an overturned car near The Golden Hind pub, Musbury, and a three-car collision at the junction of Woodbury Lane and Musbury Road.

Icy road conditions were blamed for all the accidents.

Death is not 'suspicious'

POLICE say there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of an elderly lady in Axminster.

The lady was found deceased in her home at an address in the town and police were called at about 9.30am

on Tuesday, December 22nd.
Police said: "There are no suspicious circumstances."

CONTACT THE NEWS TEAM ON 01297 631120 **OR SEND EMAILS TO:** pulmans@tinldenews.co.uk

Police attend ice accidents Public views for housing plan wanted

BY BEN MIDDLETON

A DEVELOPMENT of 70 homes could be constructed on land at Dukes Way, Axminster, if a planning application is given the goahead.

The application was submitted by Betterment Properties Ltd, of Weymouth, at the beginning of December and East Devon District Council (EDDC) is accepting public comments on the

The development is phase two of the existing Streamside development.

A spokesman for Betterment Properties said: "An application was made for phase two in March 2008 and refused in December 2008

"Following the refusal further discussions took place with the planning officer and Devon Highways and the scheme amended as to the road network and certain house types. The plans were put on public display during

spring 2009. "The housing type will consist of two bedroom two storey houses, three bedroom terraced, semi detached and detached and an occasional three storey, two bed flats above garages and larger detached family homes."

A total of 28 of the properties will be set aside for affordable

Paul Lowe, housing strategy officer at EDDC, said he

welcomed the application. He said: "We welcome this opportunity to provide much needed affordable housing in Axminster. All affordable homes are to be constructed to current Homes and Communities Agency build and design standards, be tenure blind, and managed by a registered social landlord."

A bat and wildlife survey has been carried out at the site.

Sarah Candlin, of Acorn Ecology, said: "The site includes a field, hegderows and a small stream. Some of the mature trees in the woodland strip surrounding stream have crevices in them and have some potential to be used by roosting

"However, it is understood that none of these (trees) will be removed as part of the proposed development. No dormice nuts were found and no signs of otters were found in the stream.

"Most of the grassland on the site is unsuitable for reptiles."

A transport assesment has also been carried out.

A spokesman for IMA transport planning added: "Vehicle access would primarily be routed through Dukes Way, which is accessed off Woodbury Lane and Musbury

"The site has high levels of pedestrian accessibility and buses run along Musbury Road at least every hour to Seaton. Given the site's closeness to the town and the exisitng bus services that run close to the site, it is deemed that any bus route extension or new service would be unviable.

"The development is deemed acceptable in highways terms."

A flood risk assessment and environmental impact assessment has been conducted and approved.

Christmas arrives at community service

OTTERY St Mary Parish Church played host to a Christingle service on Saturday, December 19th.

Many residents of the town attended the event and people of all ages took part in the service.

Team rector Simon Franklin said: "This service [the Christingle] is when Christmas really feels like it has arrived, with a packed church and the smell of the oranges and candles. It's a magical experience for old and young alike.

"We were also fortunate to have

members of the East Devon Youth Orchestra who played at the service and accompanied

congregation." On Christmas Eve a crib service was held at the church from 6pm, then from 11.30pm there was the midnight

During the crib service youngsters took part in a nativity play.

On Christmas morning a family communion service was held from

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Ladies raise heroes' cash

THE Raymonds Hill Ladies' Club staged a successful Christmas fayre and coffee morning in Axminster in aid of Help for Heroes.

The event was stahed in the Church Rooms on December 10th and £491 were raised.

A club spokesperson said: "We would like to thank everyone who came and supported the Christmas fayre and coffee morning.

"Many thanks also to the town crier who shouted our cause in Market Square"

The hamper was won by a Mrs Bull from Axminster.

Green light for barn plan

A BARN conversion in Branscombe has been given the go-ahead.

The application was submitted to East Devon District Council by Anne Garton on September 22nd and was last week given the thumbs up the district council planning department. Branscombe Parish Council has

Branscombe Parish Council has also gives its support to the scheme

A spokesman for the council said: "Branscombe Parish Council support this application as we feel it will greatly improve the aspect of the exisiting property."

Youth disco

AN under-18s disco is set to be held at the Turks Head Function Rooms, Honiton, from 7pm until midnight on Saturday, January 2nd.

Entry to the event will cost £7 and neludes a free soft drink





♦ IT was a popular year for the annual Boxing Day Dip on Seaton seafront when around 20 people braved the cold sea, watched by hundreds of onlookers



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♦ MEMBERS of staff from Nu-Heat are pictured with news presenter Natasha Kaplinsky

Company wins top accolade for renewable work

BY BEN MIDDLETON

A HONITON-BASED company has won a top National Training Award and has been honoured for its work with renewable resources.

Nu-Heat, which operates out of the Heathpark Industrial Estate in the town, received the award during a glitzy ceremony held in London recently.

The company was recognised for turning a potential business threat into a revenue boosting opportunity — by training heating engineers to install the renewable technologies it sells.

Judges at the awards ceremony called this scheme a clear example of a win-win investment in training.

In recognition it received National Training Award Winner of the Year for Medium Employer. Nu-Heat had previously been

Nu-Heat had previously been named a UK National Training Award winner at the National Training Awards South West Regional Ceremony held earlier in the year.

Heather Oliver, marketing manager for Nu-Heat, said: "Faced with an increasingly competitive market, we decided we needed to train our installers to fit the technology we sell and also equip our sales and technical staff with the background knowledge they need in order to give customers a

professional and informed service.

"It has been a great success and our nationally recognised course is now being rolled out to training centres across the UK.

"We are honoured to have been recognised with a National Training

News presenter Natasha Kaplinsky hosted the ceremony and said: "Nu-Heat, and all tonight's winners have proven that in today's current climate, high quality training is an integral part of both personal and business development.

"It has been great to see such a wide range of entries to this year's awards and a privilege to meet so many of the entrants"

Local firm invests in a new specialist

INVESTMENT specialist Stephen Mahony has joined Everys solicitors in Honiton.

He will head up a team of three dealing with the investment needs of Everys' clients.

Stephen worked in the City of London for American, Swiss and Italian firms and, for eleven years, helped to run Church House Trust plc

Stephen said: "I am delighted to have joined the talented people who

look after clients of Everys. It is impressive to see the trouble they take in caring for our clients and I look forward to supporting their efforts.

"Within the investment management department we try to remain calm and disciplined in the face of some of the most trying circumstances of recent times.

"Our approach will remain a conservative one with an emphasis on quality and liquidity since volatility and correlations are so uncertain."



◆ STEPHEN Mahony

Charity expands with branch opening

CHARITY Brainwave has expanded its network of shops by opening a branch in Ottery.

Brainwave provides home-based therapy programmes for children with cerebral palsy and other conditions such as development delay.

The shop is at 14a Mill Street, and it is managed by Alison Potts. She is a familiar face there after having

lived in the town and worked as assistant manageress in another charity shop.

Alison said: "As well as my previous experience working in a charity shop, I also bring my knowledge and skill gained from running various small businesses.

"I particularly want to show how the shop will embrace the traditional ethos of a charity shop dependent on donations and will aim to have something to suit everyone's pocket.

"Brainwave welcomes volunteers of all ages and background to help in running the shop and I can testify that volunteering provides a great social activity in addition to helping a small charity."

More information about the charity is available at www.brainwave.org.uk.

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The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country in heir school nativity plays...

PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS





♦ PUPILS at Chardstock Primary School are pictured above just before their nativity play performance in the school hall. Kilmington Primary School pupils are pictured left and below at the dress rehearsal of their end-of-term play, Aladdin in the village



♦ PUPILS at All Saints Primary School performed their nativity play in the village church. The play called The Angels Who Couldn't Fly was specially written for the school by Peter Kyrke-Smith and he was in the audience to watch. Peter Kyrke-Smith is pictured, above, with the children at the end of the performance. Pupils at Hawkchurch Primary School performed their nativity play in the village church, below







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PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS



◆ MEMBERS of the cast at St Mary's Primary School, Axminster, are pictured, above, before the dress rehearsal of It's a Baby





THE children at Upottery Primary School are pictured in the village church as they rehearse for their end of term concert, above. The youngsters at Little Treasures playgroup in Gittisham put on their nativity play in the village to a packed audience of proud parents, left and

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PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS











Generous offer

EDITOR — A very generous offer from Jenny Nunn of Seaton Tramway offers the perfect solution to those who wish the Tourist Information Centre to stay close to its present location.

Although notice to vacate is October 2010, it would be unwise to remain, vulnerable to Tesco's subterfuge, and unfair to all to move during the summer season. Gaynor Sedgwick and the chamber of commerce still cannot agree, and although present at relevant open council meetings regarding the TIC, claim that the Ccouncil made decisions behind closed doors.

An invited younger member of Seaton Town Council, who had worked on this project for many months, and brought considerable research along for their benefit, was treated with contempt and hostility, and an experienced member of Seaton Development Trust was asked to leave so that the meeting could be conducted in private.

The town hall will not be used for the TIC, and the renting of an empty shop was not wanted by some traders. Chamber member Rob Burt questions Seaton Town Council's integrity, yet then suggests that we approach Tesco for help.

Instead, Tesco will have more than our dilemmas if they try to send a surge of infill across our contaminated floodplain. Once that land is disturbed, those poisons will travel to our river with the sea water that carried the infill.

So, how long could this drag on before Tesco can even start the first phase, with costs spiralling, before they have to admit that nature has handed them a poisoned chalice? As I said not long ago, poison, until controlled, travels from place to place. And what goes around, does come

Jackie O'Connell Seaton

WIN

to spend at Archway Bookshop, Axminster

~ As chosen by Pulman's View ~



Meteorologist asks: 'Are we smarter than yeast?'

EDITOR - I would like to respond to Mr Powell's letter of 15th December.

I have been a meteorologist for the past 40 years or so and have always been interested in this subject.

I think the term 'climate change' applies to the many natural events and cycles which have and continue to cause change in our planet's climate. The term 'global warming' applies to that change which is directly attributable to anthropogenic (human) causes. The story of previous climate change is recorded in the rocks.

Since the start of the industrial well-verified the revolution exponentially increasing curve of CO2 in the atmosphere exactly corresponds to a similar curve of increasing global temperature.

The two are directly related (the greenhouse effect) and the main cause is carbon emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels.

The scientifically acknowledged 'safe' limit of CO2 concentration is 350 parts per million (ppm) which corresponds to a temperature rise of 2.0 degrees centigrade. We are now at 387ppm and rising.

seperated from natural climate change but we do know that we have

The effects of the combined change is a warming not evenly distributed over the globe. The poles are subject to more warming and the ice is melting

Sea-level rise is much more a result of thermal expansion of the oceans than melting ice. Combined with higher sea-levels another effect of warming is greater storminess. This puts all the millions of people who live near, or at, sea-level in very vulnerable positions indeed.

There are many positive and negative feedbacks in the planetary ocean-atmosphere circulation system, including biological ones, and no one knows what the long-term overall effect of this will be, but we do know that some positive feedbacks - for example the release of methane (a much more devastating global warming gas than CO2) from melting of the tundra, could cause run-away warming and social crisis.

If the planet is regarded as a living system (Gaia) with its own self-

physiography, then instead of global warming we might see the pendulum of change over-correct itself and plunge us all into an ice age. Either way, it's not very nice.

The last time, millions of years ago, that the level of CO2 in the atmosphere was so high the planet also experienced sea-levels much higher than today. Whatever the causes of our situation there will be no denying the severe consequences for the human population.

And we are already locked into a certain amount of warming AND the consequences. So, it's all about what we do about it. This is a personal, political and community choice but most people are now beginning to accept that we should do something. And we can all play a part; everything helps however small a contribution it may seem.

My opinion is that the science is convincing and that all we each have to do is our best to live a carbon neutral lifestyle with much lower emissions of global warming gases.

This does mean a change in lifestyle but it doesn't have to be an argue that such a change would be less stressful on both us and our environment.

And we can all do something. I hope the planned visitor centre in Seaton will, as well as promtoing the beauty and wildlife of the coast, make a valuable contribution to increasing awareness of what we are, dis-respectfully, doing to our planet (and ourselves), and what the consequences may be.

We sit on a coastline that has been designated a World Heritage Site because it displays the clear results of previous climate change epochs. The lessons are right there beneath our very feet.

The curve of the exponentially increasing population of yeast cells in a fermenting brew is remarkably similar to the curve of the increasing global human population. The alcohol eventually kills the yeast which produced it. The question is; are we more intelligent than yeast? The jury is still out.

> David Kelf Address Supplied

Praise where it's deserved

EDITOR — There always seems to be something to complain about these days — and we do not have to look far to find things that give us cause to complain.

But we should not be forgetting to

give praise when it is deserved.

I speak in this instance of the wonderful ladies who work in our local libraries; whichever libary we use, whether it be Axminster, Colyton or Seaton.

The ladies are always cheerful,

patient and extremely helpful, nothing is ever too much trouble for them. They certainly are a breed apart.

We would like to say thank you to

them and long may they continue. We would also like to thank our refuse collectors who work so efficiently and speedily in their work, epecially in the bad weather.

A Happy New Year to them all.

Diana and Brian Nason 5 The Elms

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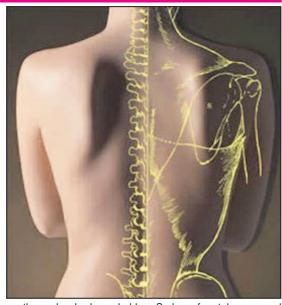
New Year, New You!

Axminster Chiropractic

t this time of year we are sometimes surprised when our bodies start complaining or hurting for 'no apparent reason'. But we do tend to get out of usual routines for a week or two and I would like to point out some of the factors you could consider for a happier, pain-free existence.

Obviously if you feel stuffed and bloated from excess turkey you are putting strains on your body, but the most important thing to consider is posture. Poor posture - unsupported slouching, and sitting for a long time, probably cause more problems than any thing. In good posture your chest is held high and your neck and shoulders move freely (not locked back in a military way). And clearly getting out for a bit of a walk helps get everything moving as does gentle stretching.

Others of you will have embarked on unaccustomed extra exercises, chopping logs



or those lovely household jobs, without preparing yourselves or assuming you can do things the same as you could ten years ago! So have fun, take care and remember that chiropractic can help sort out most aches and pains.

Slimming World



▲ Far left: Nicky Pring before joining Slimming World

aving been overweight for over 20 years and spent many years suffering from a damaged knee, Nicky Pring finally came to a point where she felt she could not continue in this way and tried to do something to help her health and wellbeing. The point at which this came was when Nicky's weight crept up to 16 ½ stone. Nicky saw her local Slimming World Honiton group advertised in the paper and it appealed to her specifically because there was a daytime group on offer which meant she could go without the children. She had tried many diets in the past, most of which worked for a short period of time but all the weight returned once she ate "normally" again.

On 7th January 2009 Nicky joined the Honiton Wednesday group and now 11 months later has just been awarded the group's Miss Slinky Award 2009 and has also become a target member with a fantastic weight loss of 4st 11 1/2lbs.

Nicky says "I enjoy going to group, and as a target member I can still go to group for continued support free of charge. The members are so friendly and supportive. We swap hints and tips all the time. I love using the Slimming World website which is free and gives me continued midweek support and like many members we love using the Slimming World magazine which is a great inspiration to us.

I enjoy a variety of meals by using all the plans available, including the fabulous Extra Easy plan which really is very easy as it is just everyday normal meals combined with a little sensible shopping and cooking. There are no foods that you cannot have and it is so flexible and fits in with my family too. My favourite meal is spaghetti Bolognese as I really love pasta as it fills me up, but I do eat plenty of meat too as my husband is a beef farmer!

In order to help me I have also become active. My dog gets lots of walks which was a chore before but now I love getting out into the fresh air. I don't get out of breath any more — we live in a hilly area and I can now speed up the slopes! I also garden and enjoy swimming. That's a big move for me as I would never have worn a swimming suit before!!! I no longer suffer from pain with my knee as it is so much stronger because I am carrying around much less weight.

It's such a good feeling getting to a healthy weight – I am so happy now – I have very recently discovered that I can get into my daughter's clothes – she'd better put a lock on her wardrobe!!! She has said she doesn't mind and has even joked that she can borrow mine. I never thought I would see the day!!!!

Nicky's ambition now is to stay this weight for good and she is adamant that that will not be a problem as she has now changed her eating for



▲ Nicky Pring after losing 4st 11¹/₂lbs with Slimming World

life and will continue to receive the group's support. She is also going to wear a bikini on her next holiday – how great is that!!

There are Slimming World groups all over the country and plenty in East Devon, but if you love your food and would like more information about your local groups please call Sharon on 07963337178 or 01404 41513. The Honiton groups run on a Tuesday at 6.30 pm at the Honiton Community College and again on Wednesdays at 10.30 am & 12.30 pm at the Honiton Baptist Church on the High Street.

If it's your New Year resolution to get into shape and eat healthily you could do no better than come along and join our lovely groups. Just as Nicky did last January – just look at the difference she has made in less than a year. In Nicky's words "It has completely changed my life".

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The Centre is also the home of Sunflower South West the local branch of The Sunflower Trust, a national charity offering help for children experiencing difficulties with learning, behaviour and health.

en Year, New You!



Ros Elliott - ACertCSHyp DCHyp

A New You with Hypnotherapy and Healthy Eating

Long term change

NEW Year is traditionally a time when we consider change, a new start, out with the old and in with the new. For many of us our resolutions have to do with our body image and how we feel. Over-indulgence and expanding waistlines at Christmas provoke knee-jerk reactions no alcohol/pudding for the whole of January, join the gym - but what happens in the gloom of February? We slip back into old patterns, comfort eating and the gym shoes gather dust.

Gain control

Wouldn't it be good if you be proactive rather than reactive. Committing to Healthy Eating with the help of Hypnotherapy is a long term solution by which you gain control of your eating rather than it controlling you. Many people have deep-seated, ingrained issues with food which sometimes stretch right back to childhood. Equally it is very common for people to respond to their emotions by eating when they don't need to. There can be many reasons why people mistreat food which dieting just does not address

Ditch the yo-yo dieting

Focusing on counting calories, weighing portions and being "good" is counterproductive and often masks the real reason why we may be over-eating. Consultation with a qualified Hypnotherapist will reveal why you are repeating habits through no fault of your own. Therapy will be tailor-made for your particular circumstances, it may address issues of the past, emotional eating and/or self-sabotaging behaviour. A wholesale shift to a healthier lifestyle with the help of Hypnotherapy makes for long-lasting change

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A complaint is dismissed

AN Ottery town councillor has stressed that council members should not be intimidated if they find themselves the subject of a complaint.

Roger Giles was speaking after a meeting of the Devon County Council (DCC) review sub committee.

During the meeting, held at the beginning of the month, a complaint against Mr Giles was discussed. The issue related to a footpath on the east bank of the River Otter, between Ottery and Tipton, and Mr Giles' attempts to get the path reopened.

The matter had initially been discussed by DCC's assessment sub committe on September 29th. The committe found that Mr Giles had done nothing wrong. However, the complainant appealed and the case was reconsidered.

The meeting resolved that the decision of the assessment sub committee not to take any action on the complaint be upheld.

The minutes from the meeting

The minutes from the meeting stated: "In summary the complainant had made a number of allegations concerning the content of and views expressed by Mr Giles and previously in his October 2006 newsletter; That Mr Giles had failed to declare an interest in this item when it had been considered by the council's public rights of way committee, and that Mr Giles had failed to treat others with respect.

failed to treat others with respect.

"Members concluded that the actions of Mr Giles had not resulted in any breach of code."

Mr Giles said: "I stress that I shall

Mr Giles said: "I stress that I shall continue to do everything possible to achieve the best possible situation for my constituents as a whole

my constituents as a whole.
"Councillors must not be intimidated by unfounded allegations, they must be free to act impartially."



♦ AXMINSTER Senior Citizens' Lunch Club gathered in the Church Rooms for Christmas lunch on Tuesday, December 22nd. Santa Claus also made an appearance and was in charge of the keyboard for Christmas songs. The club is affiliated to Axminster Care Service and members meet each Tuesday. Potential new members are welcome to call Christine on 01297 34002 for more information

Local man picked for debating team



BY ANDERS LARSSON

PHIL Bird of Axminster Young Farmers' Club has been picked for Devon's senior debating competition team.

The team will contest the regional stage in March and Phil was part of the Axminster club's team that won a local team competition in November ahead of Honiton.

It was the Axminster club's first victory since 1996 and

It was the Axminster club's first victory since 1996 and the team consisted of Kirsty Warren, Elizabeth Snell, Gemma Millman, Tom Stuckey and Phil Bird. Phil was selected for the east Devon team for a county

Phil was selected for the east Devon team for a county level competition for young farmers and did so well that he ended up in the Devon team.

Axminster Young Farmers' Club has also presented a cheque for £1,500 to Jean Almond for The Parkinson's Disease Society.

Jean is the society's regional fundraiser for the south west, and the money was raised at events like the Boxing Day Dip in Seaton and carol singing around Axminster.

Members of the club would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported their bingo evening in November.

A club spokesperson said: "We are extremely thankful and raised just over £400 for the club.

"This will be put to use when we begin to build next

Pupils enjoy day out to the capital

NO-ONE overslept and a London-bound bus left Musbury Primary School on time — at 4 30am

4.50am. Fifteen pupils from Years 5 and 6 plus four adults had an extremely early start as they travelled to the capital on Tuesday, December 8th.

Tours of The House of Commons and The House of Lords plus a meeting with east Devon MP Hugo Swire were on the agenda.

The Musbury contingent also took part in a political workshop and finished off the day with a trip to Sea Life London Aquarium.

School adminstrator Lorraine Tolman was part of the entourage and said: "The children were exceptionally well-behaved, as they always are." Headteacher Clive Salmon also took the opportunity

to ask MP Swire how the Devon campaign for fairer school funding is progressing. Mr Swire replied that he had seen The Minister of

Mr Swire replied that he had seen The Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Vernon Coaker MP, and that it is an ongoing issue.

country

Written by countryside correspondent TONY JACKSON



Remember to feed the birds

THE exigencies of the publishing world demand that I write this column before Christmas Day, so I can only hope that we have all enjoyed ourselves in the fashion we choose best and that the weather, currently a snow-sprinkled ground, deeply frost imbedded, has not caused too much hardship.

Here, in the south west, we are so fortunate to enjoy a reasonably mild climate and, yes, we may be the first to suffer from westerly gales and storms but, unlike so much of the south-east and eastern coastal regions, we seldom seem to be totally snow-bound. Even so, frosts, some light snow and hard ground can still cause great hardship, not only to farm stock but wildlife in particular.

I know I make this plea regularly, but please make sure that garden bird feeders are topped up at this crucial time of the year. For so many species, the specialist foods we put out are now virtually the only sustenance available when the ground is like iron and insect life almost non-existent. Berries have been striped by redwings and pigeons, so the hedgerows and trees now offer little provender to foraging bird life. I have just refilled my feeders with nuts, mixed seed and nyger seed for goldfinches and already they are being assaulted by finches and tits, eager to renew energy levels.

Don't forget, too, that water is essential. The trouble is that bird baths freeze solid and even when partially thawed with hot water, soon freeze again. I set down a dog bowl half filled with water, and with a rock in the centre on which birds can perch. This can then be kept ice-free during the day with the addition of warm water at intervals

So far, I believe bird life has survived remarkably well during the cold snap, for I have found no frozen corpses, other than one diamond dove in my aviary. It is remarkable that all my various finches, quails and doves seem to be completely immune to the bitter cold, huddling up together at night in their shelter. I can recall winters past, far worse than any we have had in recent years, when one constantly discovered wild birds which had frozen to death.

Now to other matters. I understand that local volunteers are required to help at Powerstock Common nature reserve, a site of ancient woodland, grasslands and old hedgebanks and ponds. Assistance is needed to clear scrub where conifers have been removed, labour which will complement the good work already being done by the grazing Galloway cattle.

This is an exceptional area for wildlife, especially butterflies, woodland flowers and birds and which has survived despite serious threats in the past. A part of the reserve was once ancient commonland, but the grazing rights of locals were taken away in the mid-19th century and the land cleared for farming. Worse still, in the 1960s woodland was again cleared and replaced with conifers. Now, since the 1970s, Dorset Wildlife Trust has been restoring the grasslands and acquiring more land and this work is now complete.

If you would like to help with this important project volunteering days will be every Thursday until March, with the first session on January 7th, meeting at the reserve car park at 10am. For more details ring 07825 311686

Another year has almost run its course and we must look forward to 2010 in the hope and expectation that life will improve and, once again, Britain will drait itself up by the bootstraps to regain the dignity and pride which has been so sourly eroded in recent years. My next column will be published in a new year and I would wish all readers hope and fulfilment for the comine months ahead.



To contact Tony Jackson, write to: Pulman's View, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email wardjackson@tiscali.co.uk

The views and opinions in this column are of the writer and not necessarily the newspaper

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View from the churches



SO we come to the last issue of 2009 - not altogether a smooth year for the churches of east Devon, but there are highlights.

First and foremost in mind will probably be the changes of ministers and the new faces amongst us - not forgetting a care and prayer for those who are engaged on the search to fill the gaps still existing.

In looking again at 2009 we must not forget the celebrations of the 1100th anniversary of Christianity in Devon when the three current Bishops of the Diocese each spent time in the twenty five Deaneries of the Diocese.

In the case of Honiton Deanery here in east Devon, it was Bishop Bob of Crediton who arrived by air at Dunkeswell and spent time in the parishes — holding a Confirmation Service, and later Songs of Praise on the beach and - where he should have left by boat. Sadly weather conditions were unfavourable for landing back at Beer and so he had to leave by road. But a good time was had by all.

It is also the time for taking a glance at statistics, particularly of church membership. Advance warning has been received of a study of church membership based on nearly 5,000 interviews by the National Centre for Social Research. Their results show that 50 per cent of respondents now call themselves Christian which is down from 60 per cent in 1983. The proportion of those who claim 'no religion' has increased from 31 per cent to 43 per cent. The steepest fall recorded in the study is among those who worship in the Church of England,

Earlier their church figures show that average attendance was 978,000 in 2007, compared with 1.2 million in 1983. The figures for the Roman Catholics declined only slightly from 10 per cent to 9 per cent. But all figures should be treated with care and other counts do exist.

The Church of England local counts last October record a monthly total of 1.5 million individual Church of England worshippers.

We have further fresh news from St George's Church at Baghdad, linked with Exeter Diocese, where they have already started their Christmas celebrations lead by the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. The Bishop's wife, Julia, gave a challenging address about the plight of the unemployed in labour camps in Yemen.

There is little work and prospects are bad. Most of the congregation at St George's Baghdad are poor, and have few prospects themselves, but on hearing Julia's address they decided to send their collection to support the unemployed in Yemen. Bishop Michael remarked: "There is a dignity in being able to give, even out of your own poverty."

Judith Roberts writes from Axminster CofE Team: "There's something instinctive in all of us perhaps that makes us gravitate towards home at Christmas time home meaning both place and people and hopefully people we love. However unreligious we might be about Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Christ, we want to be together, and we all, I hope, would want to help those who are homeless on this earth.

"God wants to be at home too -

with us. That is why God came in the person of Jesus Christ to live with us and not just for Christmas.

"Finding our way to God is sometimes hard, but perhaps this Christmas time, with all the seriousness of global issues and the concerns of our own lives, we will turn again to God who is our true

"He keeps trying to tell us that he loves us, and God is our only certain hope in an uncertain future. All the churches in Axminster and around offer a spiritual home, company in the search for God, joy and celebration in knowing his love. Everyone is welcome.'

So we turn our thoughts to the new

Roman Catholics will be looking forward to the three day visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United Kingdom in September next year.

The Pope is unlikely to go to Ireland but will spend one day in Scotland and the rest in England.

Before we get to that date Christians in east Devon will be together on two dates in January 2010.

On Friday, January 1st at 12noon local Methodists and Anglicans will join for prayer for the new year in Colyton Church.

In the same month, also at St Andrew's Church Colyton, on Sunday, January 24th there will be an afternoon service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which runs this year from January 18th to 25th — all are welcome.

A happy new year to all our

Town raises £8,464 for Poppy Appeal

THE 2009 Poppy collection for Axminster currently stands at just below

John Vanderwolfe, the secretary of the Axminster Royal British Legion branch, has issued a statement saying: "I am writing to thank everyone who contributed towards this year's Poppy Appeal collection in the Axminster

which is a wonderful figure, and there are still some funds to come in.

"We could not achieve this fantastic figure without the assistance of our Poppy collectors and the support of the shops, public houses and clubs in

"This year a good many shops

"Whilst Remembrance Day has passed the work of the Legion continues on a 24/7 basis with demand on our resources becoming greater every year.
"Without the goodwill of the

general public none of this would be



◆ THE children at Beer Tiddlers Toddler Group gathered for their annual christmas party on Wednesday. December 16th. They had lots of fun opening the presents Santa Claus had left for them. A group spokesperson said: "Everyone is welcome. So for any new mums who would like to come along, we are based at the Congregational Hall from 9.30am until 12noon every Wednesday of term time"

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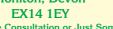
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Homes Interiors



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team Paul Alexander Antiques would like to invite readers of 'View From....' to visit our showroom at Fenny Bridges. At Alexander Paul we specialise in sourcing country style dining and coffee tables which are traditionally made of chestnut, oak and cherry. However we also carry a wide range of other styles of furniture and are often successful in sourcing specific pieces requested by clients. Our highly skilled restoration team are also available to work on your own pieces of furniture

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Magazines that focus 'interiors' and 'lifestyle'are writing features about the increasnumber discerning people who are buying pieces of antique furniture to place in more modern homes.

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offer a carpentry and joinery service with items ranging from an ornamental oak front door. Interior doors made from hard or soft wood, fancy oak or pine plate racks. Their range is extensive and exclusive to your requirements. They can be found at Ellishayes Combe Raleigh which is on the Honiton to Dunkeswell road

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Please either email your questions to kelly@pemedia.co.uk or post them to:

Kelly Baker, View From Publishing Ltd., Unit 3, St. Michael's Business Centre, Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3DB.

A question will be picked out and answered each month

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

I am thinking of making an offer on a property but have concerns that it might have subsidence. What do you look for to decide whether or not a property has subsidence? - Mr B. Shaw

If a property has a subsidence problem then there will be evidence of movement by way of cracking in the foundations, walls and ceilings. There could also be slippage whereby the external wall leans more out of alignment or floors are out of level. Sometimes a property can have a superficial makeover to hide recent cracking. The signs to look out for are walls and ceilings recently lined with wallpaper and re-render or re-pointing externally. If in any doubt it is recommended that you contact a Structural Engineer to carry out a survey for you.



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View From the Resident



The Wheelwright, Colyford

The Wheelwright scoops another top award

HOT on the heels of their success in the Great British Pub Awards last week, The Wheelwright in Colyford is celebrating yet another plaudit as winners of the award for "Best Food Pub" from Hall and Woodhouse Brewery. Judged on service, atmosphere and quality of food, The Wheelwright beat more than 400 other pubs in the group to clinch the award.

"We're delighted," says landlord Gary Valentine. "Since we took over two years ago, we've worked incredibly hard to create a really good dining ex-

perience for our customers. We've got a team of six full-time chefs and this award goes to show what a great job they're doing."

The Wheel-wright, a beautiful traditional thatched inn dating back to the 17th century, offers everything

from deli boards of cured meats, smoked fish and seafood and cheeses to daily changing specials that might include venison casserole or grilled sea bass, all using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Open all day, seven days a week, the pub has developed a loyal clientele of locals, while their growing reputation for excellent food is attracting increasing numbers of diners from further afield.

"We concentrate on giving our customers genuine customer service, quality food and creating a relaxed atmosphere," continues Gary. "It's about

offering a great experience whether you're a local coming in for a pie and a pint or celebrating your wedding anniversary with a special meal. We like to think we've something for everyone



Cinnamons, Axminster

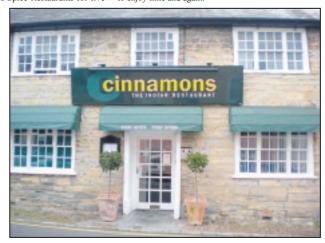
CINNAMONS the Indian restaurant is renowned locally for producing a fine dining experience to excite the palette of those who enjoy top quality Indian cuisine in a contemporary yet relaxed atmosphere.

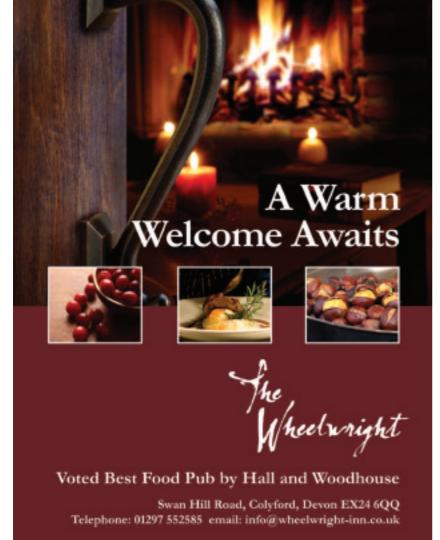
Established in Axminster for four years and part of the Viceroy chain of restaurants in Yeovil and more recently Dunkeswell, who have achieved the British Curry Awards Gold Member Top 100 UK Spice Restaurants for five

years running, Cinnamons has been recognised for providing award winning cuisine and excellent service by the Devon Social Group by achieving it's prestigious Gold Award for two years running.

At Cinnamons they source ingredients locally where possible, working closely with their suppliers, using local butchers and organic vegetables when available. They use only the freshest ingredients and our authentic Indian chefs are trained to the highest standards to produce not only the traditional dishes you would expect from an Indian restaurant, but also work to produce innovative

and creative cuisine for those who are feeling more adventurous. Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, for business or for pleasure, Cinnamons has a contemporary yet relaxed atmosphere, whether its an intimate meal for two, a meal with family and friends or a special occasion to celebrate, the staff at Cinnamons are there to look after you and give you a dining experience you will want to enjoy time and again.









Dates

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6TH

COLYTON: Over 60s Feoffees Party at Feoffees Town Hall from 4.15pm. Telephone 01297 552129 for more details.

THURSDAY IANUARY 14TH

HONITON: Honiton Flower Arranging Club Demonstration "Winter Melody" by Margaret Fairhurst. 2.15pm at Offwell Village Hall. All welcome. Telephone 01404 44151 for more details.

TUESDAY JANUARY 19TH

HONITON: Bargain Sale at the Mackarness Hall 9am - 12midday. Telephone 01404 831866 for more details

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20TH

HONITON: U3A talk: Myths & Tales of the Moor by John Stuart. From 2pm in the British Legion Hall. Telephone 01404 41708 for more details.

TUESDAY JANUARY 26TH

BEER: Beer Regatta AGM at Beer Social Club from 7.30pm. Telephone 01297 24944 for more details.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

HONITON: U3A talk: RNLI - Ordinary people doing extraordinary things by Brian Cole. From 2pm in the British Legion Hall. Telephone 01404

ROBIN HOOD RIDES AGAIN BUT THE SHERIFF WILL NOT

Drama Club's next Pantomime will be Robin Hood, Originally written and performed by the club several years ago Chris Lanes hilarious script has been updated and revamped with the help of first time director Phillipa Glanvill

This year will see many new faces on stage and even if you saw the last time the club did Robin Hood you will want to come again. Mind you if you really enjoyed the silly humour,



◆ LEARNING THEIR LINES: Cast members during a recent rehearsal

sword fighting and cute mice last time you will not be disappointed this time around. Taking a break from directing means that Chris gets to play the part of the sidekick to his son Robin, the Sheriff, a bit of a role reversal there. Robin has really got into his part of the mean Sheriff of Nottingham but has taken too much to heart the old stage saying of "break a leg" as he is currently on crutches. We are assured he will be fine for the show but planes for him to ride in on a magnificent horse are having to be curtailed which is just one more headache for Phillipa, a regular in Axminster Pantos but crossing the line to the other side for the first time this year.

Tickets are on sale from the Archway bookshop after Christmas but can be purchased in advance by telephoning 01404 831089. This years tickets are £9 for an adult but reduced to only £7 when purchased in advance and £6 for children and OAP's. A further reduction is available by buying a family ticket (two adults and two children or OAPs) for only £24

The show dates are Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd January starting at 7.30pm with a matinee on Saturday starting at 2.30am

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FREE Review Diary Dates listings form Date Venue Town/Village Organised byTel NoTel No Send your Diary Dates listings to: View From Publishing Ltd, Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre, LYME REGIS, Dorset DT7 3DB. fax: 01297 444981, or e-mail: rob@pemedia.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit. WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OR QUERIES OVER THE PHONE Deadline for postal / e-mail entries is Friday, 12noon

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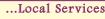
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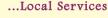
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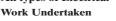








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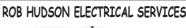




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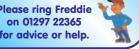
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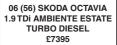
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Rugby round-up

BOTH local sides have enjoyed very differing, but interesting starts to their respective 2009/2010 League campaigns.

SIDMOUTH, in their 125th season, ended the 2008/9 campaign in a very creditable fifth place in the South-West League division One (West) and would certainly have aspired to maintaining or improving

It has not happened for them however. An early and narrow loss at recently promoted Cullompton, followed by heavy defeats at the hands of Hartpury College and Ivybridge, tended to sap their confidence.

Injuries to several pivotal players did not help their cause overmuch and, although they rallied subsequently, they never really strung a series of wins together and would have frustrated their coaches in the extreme by, seemingly having lost the knack of winning the close games, often leading well into the final few minutes, before losing focus and conceding vital points.

In consequence they lie just above the relegation zone. As to the reasons; they have little to do with luck, a little more to do with their injury list, but probably more to do with a lack of confidence. At the onset of their campaign they would probably have felt that, overall their squad was marginally stronger than of yore, and would have known that good players do not become bad players over night.

There were signs that they were, "on the up" latterly and I think that, in the new year they may well climb the table. It will not be easy though, for their league is a most competitive one.

HONITON'S rebuilding process has not been helped by the injury to one or two influential players. The Devon Union has, in its wisdom, cast aside the divisions one and two format and formed two parallel divisions, one in the North and east and the other in the South and West of the county with the result that the standard of play in each division is not as high as was previously the case.

Honiton lie in the top flight of the N & E Division but their form has been far from consistent, a fact that must have frustrated them. They do however retain the ability to win close games and to win while they are not at their best, a talent for which Sidmouth would pay handsomely, if it could be purchased or sold. Having watched them on several occasions, I feel that the pattern is taking shape but has a little way to trav-

As a club they do traditionally tend to play better in the spring than in the autumn and it may be that a good run in the cup will bring them together. They tend to "come in ones" at the moment

Whatever else, be it promotion or relegation, triumph or disaster, may all have a happy and injury free new year.

PREVIEW

SPEAKING nationally there was not too much rugby to be played on the first Saturday of the new year. The way things have transpired however, many clubs will be involved in playing League games that were postponed for one reason or another in the autumn.

The rule is, I believe, that postponed League games are to be played on the first available Saturday after the postponement and, as both SID-MOUTH and HONITON lost games to the weather on the Saturday before Christmas, one would assume that these fixtures would take place on January the second.

Not so, for SIDMOUTH'S last opponents suffered prior postponements and these earlier fixtures take precedence. As it stands therefore, the Blackmoor club will not have League rugby on the first Saturday of two thousand and ten and its first side takes the day off. All is not lost however, certainly as far as HONITON is concerned.

They too have lost games to the weather this season but are Devon's sole represented in a National Cup that has replaced the Vase competition, in part anyway, and take on BODMIN from the Cornwall League Division One in the first round of the competition.

They were scheduled to play a League game, against Topsham I believe, but seemingly the cup takes precedence. (Will any one who can understand all that, please explain it to me).

As to predictions, I held the belief that play in the first division of the Devon League was of a higher standard than that in its Cornish coun-

with Keith Jenkin

terpart. However since the powers that be in the Devon Union decided to allocate teams as to geographical location rather than on ability I tend to think that this is no longer the case overall.

Honiton have faced Bodmin on one or two occasions in the past and have always emerged comfortable winners. That fact means little however. The Duchy's county town currently lie in the top flight of Cornwall's first Division and will certainly be no mugs, while the Allhallows side, although topping the Devon League North and East Division, are unlikely to remain there as other sides play their games in

They are not playing too well either and have recently scraped home against sides whom they would have expected to best comfortably.

They do like the cup however and their home advantage will certainly help.

I do expect them to progress into the next round, probably by no more

As to the second sides, the Bodmin second string accompanies its firsts to Honiton and will take on the club's second team in what could be anybody's game.

Sidmouth seconds should however have rather too much for Teignmouth seconds and their third side should certainly win at Withycombe seconds. Sidmouth Colts however face a difficult game at

FIXTURES 2nd January - Bridport v Wimborne 2nd (away); Bridport 2nd v No Game; Chard v Old Sulians (home); Chard 2 v Somerton (away); Chard 3rd v Wiveliscombe 2nd (home); Chard Colts v Burnham on Sea Colts (home); Crewkerne v No game; Dorchester v No game; Dorchester 2nd v Ellingham & Ringwood (home); Honiton v Bodmin (home) Cup KO 2pm; Honiton 2nd v Bodmin 2nd (home); Honiton Colts v Barnstaple Colts (home); Sidmouth v No Game; Sidmouth 2nd v Teignmouth 2nd (home); Sidmouth 3rd v Withycombe 2nd (away); Sidmouth Colts v Exmouth Colts (home); Weymouth v Warminster (home); Weymouth 2nd v Wincanton (home).

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HONITON RUNNING CLUB PERRY STREET LEAGUE

Hundreds expected for Sport Relief events

With Alan Nicholls

ON Sunday, March 21st Honiton will be shaken by the sound of hundreds of com-petitors taking part in the town's Sport Relief Mile events.

Honiton Running Club are promoting the one, three and six mile events and are expecting a mammoth turnout from the population of Honiton and East Devon. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country will take to the streets at the same time in a nationally televised event.

So as the New Year approaches give a thought to those who need your support through these difficult times. Enter the Sport Relief Mile and make a New Year Resolution to get fit and join the chal-

Why not challenge your friends and relatives to see who can get the fittest or raise the most cash.

Sport Relief harnesses the power and passion of sport to change lives for the better. By doing sport, having fun and raising money, everyone can do good and

All the money raised is spent by Comic Relief to help vulnerable people living incredibly tough lives both at home in the UK and across the world's poorest coun-

This challenge is not just for runners but for the whole community. We are hoping that everyone gets behind us and joins in the fun, we want kids, mums and grandma's and grandpa's, teams and clubs to get out, have a great time and raise lots of cash for this worthwhile

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile challenge events will be starting in Honiton High Street and finishing in New Street and will hopefully surpass the 460 runners who turned out for the 2008 event. We have upped our allocation to 600 so



hope the Honiton people will put their best foot forward to reach this target.

The mile challenge which starts at 10.30am will be based on a loop of High Street and King Street while the three and six mile challenges start at 11.30am and will cover a loop of High Street, Sidmouth Road, Battishorne Way, Weatherhill Road, and Church Hill – once for three miles and twice for six

So don't delay, get your entry in now. Go online to www.sportrelief.com and enter the Honiton Mile event, the Sport Relief shop will be opening soon to buy your Sport Relief T-shirt, and lots of other exciting goodies. Download a sponsor form and start fundraising.

There are lots of ideas on the website for raising funds so rise to the challenge and join the hundreds of thousands of people at Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile events taking place across the whole

♦ AXE VALLEY RUNNERS

DESPITE wearing a sparkly Christmassy dress - AVR Dave Kelf clocked-up a new 5k personal best of 26:45 in the Gorleston Cliffs Park Run near Great Yarmouth on Boxing Day.

CORONATION CUP FINAL

LYME REGIS 4 S.PETHERTON 0

Coronation Cup Final December 26th LYME Regis and South Petherton met for the first time this season in the 56th Coronation Cup Final at Combe St Nicholas on Boxing Day Morning. And, despite Petherton missing several key players, it was the Seasiders who deservedly sailed away with the trophy after a stunning first-half performance.

Lyme flew out of the blocks and were clearly pumped-up for the occasion. Adam Caddy was fortunate to escape a first-minute card from referee Mark Macey when he clattered into James Cattigan. The full-back was unable to continue - the inci-

dent had a galvanising effect on Lyme who went into the game as slight underdogs. Caddy opened the scoring in the 20th minute when he surged up the Slades Cross Ground slope before unleashing a 25-yard drive that Lee Holt, standing in for regular Petherton keeper Jardine MacKenzie, was unable to even get a glove on.

The lead was doubled two minutes later

when left-winger Rob Thomson curled in an incisive cross that had 'finish me' writ-

invitation and slid the ball home. Bond put Lyme away and clear at 3-0 in the 43rd minute after skipper Caddy slotted through a clever reverse pass.

Any hopes Petherton may have harboured Any hope's renerror may have harboured of a fight-back were scuppered in the third minute of first-half injury time when Dave Robinson weaved through the shell-shocked defence before beating Holt.

League top scorer Rich Hebditch was denied a 47th minute reply by a magnificent twisting save by pick-of-the-League keeper Ashley Caddy who went on to keep his sixth clean sheet in seven games. But Lyme were largely untroubled by a Petherton side who paid the penalty for turning up with a depleted squad strangely lacking the full quota of substitutes.

Robin Townsend, who collected his first trophy as Lyme manager, deserves a mention for sending out a squad that were intent on not only winning the trophy but also putting down a marker in the three-horse race for the Premier Division title - they clearly did that - and in some style.



◆ CHAMPIONS: Lyme Regis celebrate after Boxing Day's Cup Final

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EAST DEVON HUNT SKITTLES LEAGUE

Vanstone hits massive 96 for Cocks & Hens

Marvels	9 7 6 6 6 4 4 3 3 2	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	18 18 14 12 12 12 8 6 6 6 4	
DIV TWO Pld Blackdwn Boys 10 Upottery .9 Westhill.com .10 Sidford .9 Ur Arrs .7 Broadclyst .9 Latecomers .10 Stags .10 Fountain Flyers .9 Originals .9 Night Owls .7 Tuckers Arms .9	W 8 7 5 5 4 4 4 3 3 3 2	D I 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Pts 16 14 11 10 9 8 8 7 7 6 4	
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DIV FOUR	Pld	W	D	Pts
Plymtree	9	7	0	14
Cee Dee's	10	7	0	14
New Inn	9	6	0	12
Cocks & Hens	9	6	0	12
Sidbury	10	6	0	12
Tale Nibs	10	6	0	12
Yoyo's	10	5	0	10
New Ideas	9	3	0	6
Bakers 8	8	2	0	4
Yetties	7	1	0	2
Cobs & Pens	9	1	0	2

Top individuals scores (80+): Kevin Vanstone (Cocks & Hens) 96, Marcus Pratt (Culm Vale) 92, Brian Chattey (Blacksmiths) 90. George Woollacott (Sutton Wanderers) 88, Paul Hill (Auctioneers) 87, Adrian Williams (Yoyo's) 83, Andrew Luxton (Sutton Wanders) and Cliff O'Dell (Yoyo's) both 82, Rod Anning (Marvels) 80.

COLYTON SKITTLES

The Mike Sansom Nomination Trophy

MIKE Sansom Nomination Trophy qualifying results (Top three go through to the Final).

RED LION (SIDBURY) GROUP. Honiton WMC A (S Pye) 67 Vine A (C Every) 62 Eagle Tavern (C Hutchings) 53 Honiton RBL A 52

40 Rising Sun A 29. Volunteer A, Sidbury Stones, Honiton RBL C, Rising Sun B and Sidbury Social A all failed to turn

Vine B 48 Star A 42 Honiton Con A

VINE INN GROUP

Tuckers A (S Hembrow) 54 Red Lion Sidbury (M Paver) 52 Three Tuns Harts (S Land) 49 Honiton RBL D 47 Offwell A 47 Honiton WMC B 41 Star C 39 Honiton RBL B 38 Three Tuns A 33.

Star B, Stockland B, Honiton Con A, Mountbatten Whites and Volunteer B all failed to turn up.

AXE VALE

SOCIAL CLUB GROUP

Red Lion A (C Miller) 55 Axe Carpets A (B Huntley) 53 Lamb B

(M Pidgeon) 49 Tuckers B 47 Lamb A 47 Axe Con A 39 Red Lion Cavaliers 37 Axe Inn B 33 New Inn A 31 Tuckers C 30 Old Inn B 16. New Inn B, Old Inn A and Axe Inn A all failed to turn up

KINGFISHER GROUP

Axe Vale SC. A (G Hayball) 47 White Hart B (Michelle Craker) 44 Axe Vale SC B (T Miller) 42 Gerrard B 39 Axe Vale SC C 37 Gerrard A 30 Seaton SC A 24 White Hart A 20 Colcombe B 12.

Colcombe A, Beer Albion, Seaton SC B, Beer SCA and Harbour C all failed to turn up.

Beer B (S Somers) 52 Seaton AFC. A (M French) 48 Seaton AFC. B (D Park) 39 Kingfisher A 36 Kings Arms B 34 Kingfisher B 33 Harbour A 25 Kings Arms A 23 Axe Carpets B

Harbour Beerboys, Harbour B, Ship, Beer Vikings and Seaton Bowling Club all failed to turn up.

The Final is on Saturday, January 23rd at the Gerrard Arms, 8.30pm

Windwhistle Golf Club news

Annual General Meeting on 10/12/09 which was chaired by the current Captain, James Foulger. The committee continues to grow as three new members were appointed: Mike Donnahue as 'Friendly' captain, Graham Pike as A-Team captain and Peter Hamilton-Walsh as press secre-

The committee would like to thank James Foulger, who has had a fantastic year as club captain. Not only has he taken the club forward through numerous competitive and social events, he has also raised almost two thousand pounds for his nominated charity.

Andy King was confirmed as captain for 2010 and Paul Fenton (Treasurer) was confirmed as his Vice Captain. We wish them well in the forthcoming year. Andy king will host his first engagement of 2010 with the 'Captain's Drive In' competition on January 9th

Meanwhile the 'Tuesday Marauders' held their annual 'Christmas Cup' compeon the 15th December. This was hosted by the founders Steve Elswood and Mervyn Jeanes. It was a great day and greater evening enjoyed by nearly all members.

Many thanks to Pete Spencer-Farr for taking up his usual position as comedian and general entertainer.

The 'Christmas Cup' was played for the first time with the three new holes being brought into play (holes four, five, and six) much to the delight of the players.

The results for the day were: Mike Donnahue - Overall Winner, Ted Wachen winning the Front Nine, Paul Fenton winning the Back Nine and the team game was won by Pete Hamilton-Walsh, Pete Spencer-Farr and George Willerton.

Awards went to the following winners: Andy King (Summer Cup) Pete Hamilton-Walsh (Autumn Cup), Mike Donnnahue (Christmas Cup) and Andrew Perry (Spring Cup). Although Andrew Perry could not attend the evening he received his award by phone from Egypt while listening to 'Happy Birthday' sung by his fellow Marauders

Many thanks go to Karl Cox who picked up a special award for his contribution to the Marauders throughout the year.

The Marauders would also like to thank the bar and kitchen staff who worked hard to make the evening a success.

Making a return to his grotto at the Windwhistle on Friday 18th December was Father Christmas and he was assisted by a giant elf and an angel.

Many thanks go to 'Sure Sounds' who provided a disco, free of charge, for the hoards of over excited children before they saw Santa and each collected a gift.

Once again catering staff pulled out all the stops and provided a huge selection of party food for children and adults alike (mulled wine went down particularly

They also serve a great Sunday lunch which includes vegetarian options and is available to all non-members.

Chard & District Swimming Club round-up

LOCAL members of Chard and District Swimming Club participated in the West Dorset Christmas Open Meet on the 5th December, held at Bridport Leisure Centre, writes Steph Hallam.

Once again Swimmers were aiming high with several of them reaching the South West Regional qualification times required to compete next year at a South-West regional level. It was the first opportunity for many younger swimmers to compete in an open meet.

Congratulations go to Ben Fowler, 13, who achieved his first ever South-West Regional Qualifying time (SWRQT) in the 100m Backstroke with a time of 1-10-29.

He also won this event alongside the 100m Individual Medley, with a second position in the 50m Backstroke and two thirds in the 50m and 100m Freestyle

Luke van den Barselaar, 14, qualified for a SWRQT in the 100m Backstroke event with a time of 1-08-70 winning the 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke and achieving silver in the 50m Butterfly event.

Hannah Pullinger, achieved two South-West Counties Consideration times in the 100m Freestyle: 1-04-25 and 100m Backstroke: 1-

She won both these events alongside the Backstroke with second positions in the 50m Butterfly, Breaststroke and 100m Breaststroke.

Jake Hallam, 13, won the

50m Breaststroke. 50m Backstroke, securing second place in the 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, and 100m Backstroke Abigail events. Dare, 12, won the 50m Butterfly and 100m Butterfly with a second position in the 50m Freestyle and third the 50m Backstrokeand 100m Individual Medley. Oliver Bilbie; 11 won both the 50m Backstroke and 100m Backstroke and finished in third place for the 50m Freestyle. Whilst Jamie

Pullinger; 11 won 100m Individual Medley , finishing in second position for the 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, 100m Butterfly and obtaining a third for the 50m Breaststroke.

Elsie Emery also 11 years, achieved a first in the 50m Butterfly, 100m

Backstroke, 100m Butterfly, 100m Individual Medley, a second in the 50m Freestyle and 100m Freestyle finishing in third for the 50m Backstroke.

Charlie Kendall, 10, won his 50m Backstroke event with second place in the 50m Freestyle 100m and Individual Medley. Bea Brett,



◆ DANIEL Walker, aged 12, and Hannah Pullinger, 14, (pictured above) have been awarded the Chard & District swimming club's 'Swimmer of the Month' trophy for November.

Daniel's progress was measured by the RANX system. He accumulated the highest number of points for progress. During the month he also obtained one of his previous South West Regional qualifying times.

Hannah obtained two new South-West Counties consideration times in the 200m Freestyle: 2-21-49 and a time of 1-25-06 in the 100m Breaststroke event.

> 9, won both the 100m Individual Medley event and 50m Backstroke. Ella Harvey, 9, came second in the 50m Butterfly and third in the 50m Backstroke whilst Libby Barnes, 9, came third for her 50m Breaststroke.

> Other Local competitors were: Abigail O'Leary, Jade Hawkins, Mollie Simpson,

Lauren Real, Jenna Emery, Ryan Adair, Tristan O'Leary, Lewis Pearson, Iain Ross, Jay Kindred, Nathan Roberts, Sarah Underwood, Natalie Underwood, Ben Greenslade, Jacob Crofton, Susan Ross, Lauren Harrison, Barnaby Down, Wesley Holmes and Jake Harvey.

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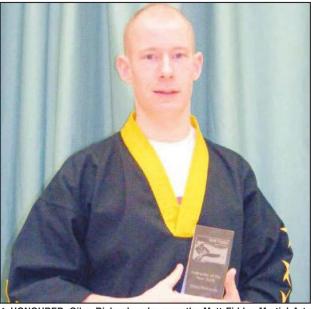
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♦ ACTION from last week's Devon & Exeter League Division One clash between Seaton Town (green) and Beacon Knight at Colyford Road. A Josh French goal gave the Greens all three points and top spot in the table.

Photo by COLIN BOWERMAN



♦ HONOURED: Giles Richards, who runs the Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Schools throughout Devon, Dorset and Somerset has beaten of competition from throughout the UK to land the prestigious Instructor of the Year award for 2009 at a ceremony held at a Martial Arts academy in Swindon. Giles, 23, also collected the Kick-Boxing School of the Year award.

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